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Application No.: 10/705,472

Docket No.: NY-CERA 231.2-US (10314386)

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-22 (canceled)

23. (new) A basal finger joint implant, wherein the implant is an uncoupled, two-part implant, wherein said implant comprises spherical sliding surfaces.

24. (new) The basal finger joint implant as claimed in claim 23, wherein the implant comprises a proximal monolithic component comprising a hollow-ball-shaped socket bearing with a proximal shaft, and a distal component, comprising a ball which is mounted in the socket bearing and is implantable in a finger bone by means of the distal shaft.

25. (new) The basal finger joint implant as claimed in claim 24, wherein said spherical sliding surfaces are congruent, one of which is the hollow-ball-shaped socket bearing and the other of which is the surface of the ball.

26. (new) The basal finger joint implant as claimed in claim 25, wherein the bearing surface of the socket bearing extends beyond the equatorial plane as protection against luxation.

27. (new) The basal finger joint implant as claimed in claim 26, wherein adduction is ensured by a cutout, which is suitable for movement, in the proximal component, and, on full extension of the phalanges, abduction/adduction of up to +/- 30 angular degrees is provided.

28. (new) The basal finger joint implant as claimed in claim 27, wherein, as flexion increases, the guidance of the distal shaft is designed in such a manner that both abduction and adduction are increasingly restricted.

29. (new) The basal finger joint implant as claimed in claim 28, which consists entirely of ceramic.

30. (new) The basal finger joint implant as claimed in claim 24, which consists entirely of aluminum oxide ceramic.

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31. (new) The basal finger joint implant as claimed in claim 30, wherein the proximal shaft and the distal shaft have a coating which promotes bone ingrowth or osteointegration.

32. (new) The basal finger joint implant as claimed in claim 31, wherein the coating is hydroxyapatite.

33. (new) The basal finger joint implant as claimed in claim 31, wherein the proximal shaft and the distal shaft have a porous structure which promotes bone ingrowth or osteointegration.